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| 09/919,911      | .08/02/2001 | Youichi Horii        | ASA-1017            | 3983             |

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EXAMINER

LELE, TANMAY S

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2684

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,911

Applicant(s)

HORII ET AL.

Examiner

Tanmay S Lele

Art Unit

2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 24 – 34 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected group (II), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 22 April 2004.

### *Specification*

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### *Claim Objections*

3. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: "... a telephone functions..." (assumed to be "... telephone functions... "). Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: "...*fir* detecting..." (assumed to be "... *for* detecting... "). Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
6. Claims 5, 6, and 18 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, it was not understood how, "terminals are arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is

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mounted on the main body, so that power can be supplied from a power source in the main body to the camera device,” (and the opposite as in claim 6) as images are transferred via a short distance wireless connection (as per claim 1) and hence it was not understood how the device could operate as such without a power supply (since as claimed the transfer is wireless). For purposes of examination it was assumed both units possessed power supplies. Appropriate clarification is required.

Regarding claim 18, it was not understood what was meant by, “wherein the camera device has a symmetric shape in the vertical (up-down) direction.” For purposes of examination it was assumed that the plane of symmetry (viewed on Applicant’s figure 5) was on the xz plane. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected for at least those reasons recited in claim 18.

In further regards to claim 20, it was not understood what the “control method” was in reference to. For purposes of examination it was assumed that this was in reference to operation of functionality or not. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding claim 21, it was not understood what was meant by, “wherein the camera device has a symmetric shape in the front-rear direction.” For purposes of examination it was assumed that the axis of symmetry (viewed on Applicant’s figure 5) was on the xy plane. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding claim 22, it was not understood what was meant by, “wherein the camera device has an asymmetric shape in the vertical (up-down) direction.” For purposes of examination it was assumed that the axis of symmetry (viewed on Applicant’s figure 5) was on the xz plane. Appropriate correction is required.

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Regarding claim 23, it was not understood what was meant by, “wherein the camera device as an asymmetric shape in the front-rear direction.” For purposes of examination it was assumed that the axis of symmetry (viewed on Applicant’s figure 5) was on the xy plane. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 21, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548).

Regarding claim 1, Reitmaa teaches of a mobile phone comprising a main body having a telephone function (page 2, lines 21 – 29) and a camera device having a camera (page 2, lines 21 – 29) and means for transferring images captured by the camera device to the main body by a short-distance wireless connection (Figure 9b and page 14, lines 12 –17), wherein the images are processed either in the camera device or in the main body (page 3, lines 18 –22 and page 14, lines 26 –32).

Regarding claim 5, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim

1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein terminals are arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body, so that power can be supplied from a power source in the main body to the camera device (page 15, lines 8 –12 and page 17, lines 18 –26).

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Regarding claim 7, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim

1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein terminals are arranged a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body, so that signal transmission/reception can be performed through a cable without using the short-distance wireless communication (Figure 9b and page 14, lines 13 – 15).

Regarding claim 9, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim

1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein a stopper is provided to prevent falling of the camera device from the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (page 14, lines 8 –12).

Regarding claim 10, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in

claim 9. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein a magnet is arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (page 14, lines 8 –12).

Regarding claim 13, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in

claim 9. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein each of the main body and the camera device has an opening hole (Figures 3 and 9b; note that both devices possess holes, for example, 32 and 91).

Regarding claim 15, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in

claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein a cable connection terminal is provided on each of the main body and the camera device, so that signal transmission/reception can be performed through a cable when the camera device is detached from the main body (page 14, lines 18 –25).

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Regarding claim 16, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device has a switch to replace the button operation on the main body (page 9, lines 16 –24).

Regarding claim 17, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device has a cursor key to replace the button operation on the main body (starting page 8, line 32 and ending page 9, line 2).

Regarding 18, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device has a symmetric shape in the vertical (up-down) direction (Figure 9b).

Regarding claim 21, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device has a symmetric shape in the front-rear direction (Figure 9b).

Regarding claim 35, Reitmaa teaches of a mobile phone (page 2, lines 21 – 29) comprising a first terminal having a camera (Figure 9b and page 14 , lines 12 –25) and a second terminal having a ten-key set (Figure 9b and starting page 4, line 24 and ending page 5, line 9), wherein the first terminal and the second terminal includes: an electric terminal for use for passing data captured by the camera when the first terminal is physically connected to the second terminal into a unit (Figure 9b and page 14 , lines 12 – 25); and short-distance wireless communication means for passing data captured by the camera when the first terminal is physically detached from the second terminal (Figure 9b and page 14 , lines 12 –25 and page 14, lines 26 –36).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 2, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Umezawa et al. (Umezawa, US Patent No. 5,491,507) and Siddoway et al. (Siddoway, US Patent No. 6,473,631).

Regarding claim 2, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitation as recited in claim

1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device can communicate with the main body (Figure 9b and page 14, lines 12 –17) and function by the short-distance wireless communication (Figure 9b and page 14, lines 12 –17 and further in starting page 14, line 25 and ending page 15, line 11).

Reitmaa does not specifically teach of [the camera device] has a speaker unit and a microphone and having the telephone function by the short-distance wireless communication, thereby enabling to perform a calling only with the camera device (though it should be noted that Reitmaa teaches of added features starting page 14, line 25 and ending page 15, line 11, including video phone features).

In a related art dealing with a video mobile telephone device, Umezawa teaches of a microphone and having the telephone function by the short-distance wireless communication, thereby enabling to perform a calling only with the camera device



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(Figures 17 – 19 and column 17, lines 5 –15; note the housing 58 which holds camera 61 can slide and further connected via cord, as per column 17, lines 43 – 48).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's short ranged wireless camera, Umezawa's first lower unit (which houses the camera), for the purposes of adding functionality and convenience (for example, allowing the body stand alone or allowing visual and vocal communications with one hand) while operating a video telephone call, as taught by Umezawa.

Reitmaa in view of Umezawa, do not specifically teach of a speaker unit.

In a related art dealing with a wireless video swivel phone, Siddoway teaches of a speaker unit (Figure 4 and starting column 5, line 49 and ending column 6, line 16; note the entire unit and all components are mounted on the swivel 202, as per column 5, lines 49 –54).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included Reitmaa and Umezawa's short ranged camera unit, Siddoway's speaker, for the purposes of hearing audio from the video camera source (for example when attempting to view and listen while moving or panning), as taught by Siddoway.

Regarding claim 3, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitation as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device can communicate with the main body (Figure 9b and page 14, lines 12 –17) and telephone functions (page 2, lines 21 – 29).

Reitmaa does not specifically teach of [the camera device] has a speaker unit and a microphone; provided with a telephone number list, thereby enabling to perform a calling only with the camera device (though it should be noted that Reitmaa teaches of

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added features starting page 14, line 25 and ending page 15, line 11, including video phone features).

In a related art dealing with a video mobile telephone device, Umezawa teaches of a microphone and provided with a telephone number list, thereby enabling to perform a calling only with the camera device (Figures 17 – 19 and column 17, lines 5 – 15; note the housing 58 which holds camera 61 can slide and further connected via cord, as per column 17, lines 43 – 48; further in column 10, lines 23 – 31).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's short ranged wireless camera, Umezawa's first lower unit (which houses the camera), for the purposes of adding functionality and convenience (for example, allowing the body stand alone or allowing visual and vocal communications with one hand) while operating a video telephone call, as taught by Umezawa.

Reitmaa in view of Umezawa, do not specifically teach of a speaker unit.

In a related art dealing with a wireless video swivel phone, Siddoway teaches of a speaker unit (Figure 4 and starting column 5, line 49 and ending column 6, line 16; note the entire unit and all components are mounted on the swivel 202, as per column 5, lines 49 – 54).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included Reitmaa and Umezawa's short ranged camera unit, Siddoway's speaker, for the purposes of hearing audio from the video camera source (for example when attempting to view and listen while moving or panning), as taught by Siddoway.

Regarding claim 4, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitation as recited in claim

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1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the main body has a speaker unit and a microphone, so that calling can be performed with the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body and when the camera device is detached from the main body (page 14, lines 26 – 36 and page 2, lines 21 – 29).

Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein the camera device has a speaker unit and a microphone, so that calling can be performed with the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (though it should be noted that Reitmaa teaches of added features starting page 14, line 25 and ending page 15, line 11, including video phone features and functionality when not attached, as per page 14, lines 29 – 36).

In a related art dealing with a video mobile telephone device, Umezawa teaches of wherein the camera device has a microphone, so that calling can be performed with the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (Figures 17 – 19 and column 17, lines 5 – 15; note the housing 58 which holds camera 61 can slide and further connected via cord, as per column 17, lines 43 – 48; note the microphone in column 5, lines 46 – 50 and Figure 19).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's short ranged wireless camera, Umezawa's first lower unit (which houses the camera), for the purposes of adding functionality and convenience (for example, allowing the body stand alone or allowing visual and vocal communications with one hand) while operating a video telephone call, as taught by Umezawa.

Reitmaa in view of Umezawa, do not specifically teach of a speaker unit.

In a related art dealing with a wireless video swivel phone, Siddoway teaches of a speaker unit (Figure 4 and starting column 5, line 49 and ending column 6, line 16; note

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the entire unit and all components are mounted on the swivel 202, as per column 5, lines 49 –54).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included Reitmaa and Umezawa's short ranged camera unit, Siddoway's speaker, for the purposes of hearing audio from the video camera source (for example when attempting to view and listen while moving or panning), as taught by Siddoway.

11. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Vazan et al. (Vazan, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 96/38762).

Regarding claim 6, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein terminals are arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (Figure 9b and page 15, lines 8 –12 and page 17, lines 18 –26).

Reitmaa does not specifically teach of so that power can be supplied from a power source in the camera device to the main body.

In a related art dealing with a combined handset and camera device, Vazan teaches of so that power can be supplied from a power source in the camera device to the main body (page 4, lines 1 – 7; note the supply powers both and is common to both).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile system, Vazan's common power supply system, for the purposes of powering both units (thereby reducing size while maintaining the functionality of both units), as taught by Vazan.

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12. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Cushman et al. (Cushman, US Patent No. 6,125,287).

Regarding claim 8, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa further teaches of wherein the camera device has a liquid crystal screen (Figure 3a and page 4, lines 27 –29).

Reitmaa does not specifically teach of and telephone number list information in the main body can be displayed on the liquid crystal screen (though makes some allusions to such function in page 10, lines 1 –12).

In a related art dealing with the display and improvement of user information, Cushman teaches of telephone number list information in the main body can be displayed on the liquid crystal screen (Figures 2a – 2q and 3a – 3b and 4i - 4o and for example, column 5, lines 34 –44).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's LCD display, Cushman's directory features, for the purposes of decreasing the complexity and required keystrokes in accessing commonly used numbers stored in directories, as taught by Cushman.

13. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tate (Tate, US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155810).

Regarding claim 11, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in

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claim 9. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein a magic tape is arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body.

In a related art dealing with affixing devices to mobiles, Tate teaches of wherein a magic tape is arranged at a contact portion between the camera device and the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (paragraph 11).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera combination, Tate's tape attachment means, for the purposes of easily installing and attaching components to a mobile (for added functionality) as taught by Tate.

14. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kaiwa et al. (Kaiwa, US Patent No. 6,490,436).

Regarding claim 12, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 9. Reitmaa teaches of fixing the camera device to the main body when the camera device is mounted on the main body (page 14, lines 8 –12), but not specifically of wherein a wedge-shaped slide-type stopper is provided.

In a related art dealing with affixing accessories to a mobile device, Kaiwa teaches of wherein a wedge-shaped slide-type stopper is provided (Figure 2 and column 5, lines 16 –24).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera device, Kaiwa's attachment means, for the

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purposes of attaching and removing accessories (such as battery packs) from a mobile easily, as taught by Kaiwa.

15. Claims 14, 19, 20, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitmaa, et al (Reitmaa, World Intellectual Property Organization, WO 98/48548) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Harris et al. (Harris, US Patent No. 6,009,336).

Regarding claim 14, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein a terminal is provided for detecting mounted/detached states of the camera device at the main body (though does note of operation when apart as per page 26, lines 29 –36).

In a related art dealing with a mobile device that possesses a detachable display, Harris teaches of wherein a terminal is provided for detecting mounted/detached states of the camera device at the main body (column 9, lines 6 –23).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera system, Harris' detection means, for the purpose of preparing the unit for operation (for example for video conferencing) as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 19, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 18. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein a terminal is provided for detecting whether the camera device is mounted in a correct direction (up-down) or a reverse direction.

In a related art dealing with a mobile device that possesses a detachable display, Harris teaches of wherein a terminal is provided for detecting whether the camera device

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is mounted in a correct direction (up-down) or a reverse direction (column 9, lines 6 –23; note the contacts logic level detection, as per column 9, lines 36 –44).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera system, Harris' detection means, for the purpose of preparing the unit for operation (for example for video conferencing) as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 20, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 18. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of the mobile phone further comprising means for detecting whether the camera device is mounted on the main body in a correct direction or a reverse direction, so that the control method of the main body is switched from one to the other according to the detected direction.

In a related art dealing with a mobile device that possesses a detachable display, Harris teaches of the mobile phone further comprising means for detecting whether the camera device is mounted on the main body in a correct direction or a reverse direction, so that the control method of the main body is switched from one to the other according to the detected direction (column 9, lines 6 –23; note the contacts logic level detection, as per column 9, lines 36 –44).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera system, Harris' detection means, for the purpose of preparing the unit for operation (for example for video conferencing) as taught by Harris.



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Regarding claim 22, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein the camera device has an asymmetric shape in the vertical (up-down) direction.

In a related art dealing with a mobile device that possesses a detachable display, Harris teaches of wherein the camera device has an asymmetric shape in the vertical (up-down) direction (Figure 8).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera system, Harris' display and detection means, for the purpose of preparing the unit for operation (for example for video conferencing) as taught by Harris.

Regarding claim 23, Reitmaa teaches all the claimed limitations as recited in claim 1. Reitmaa does not specifically teach of wherein the camera device as an asymmetric shape in the front-rear direction.

In a related art dealing with a mobile device that possesses a detachable display, Harris teaches of wherein the camera device as an asymmetric shape in the front-rear direction (Figure 8).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to have included into Reitmaa's mobile-camera system, Harris' display and detection means, for the purpose of preparing the unit for operation (for example for video conferencing) as taught by Harris.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanmay S Lele whose telephone number is (703) 305-


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3462. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 - 6:30 PM Monday – Thursdays and on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay A. Maung can be reached on (703) 308-7745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Tanmay S Lele  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2684

tsl  
July 9, 2004

  
**NAY MAUNG**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**